

To: Members of the Judicial Committee

From: Rachel Everley, East Lyme

RE: Testimony **IN SUPPORT of HB-6355**

Date: March 3, 2021

Dear Chairs and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today in full support of HB-6355, An Act Concerning Risk Protection Orders or Warrants. While Connecticut was one of the first states to enact a risk protection warrant in 1999, it is time to amend and modernize our law. This is a simple, common sense step that can save lives.

HB-6355 will expand the current law to allow family members and medical professionals to petition the court for an Extreme Risk Protection Order, as opposed to this ability being limited to law enforcement. This change provides access to life-saving measures to the very people who may first recognize warning signs that an individual is in crisis. Many people may not feel comfortable contacting law enforcement or feel that this should remain a private concern.

Sixty-two percent of gun deaths in Connecticut are suicides. HB-6355 will empower more people to reach out and protect their loved ones by temporarily removing guns from their possession. Amending this law will save more lives.

Please support HB-6355. Thank you for your time.

Thank you,

Rachel Everley
East Lyme